

THE JACOBS REPORT
GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
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FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
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BILLS TO REQUIRE NOVEMBER SCHOOL ELECTIONS

May Elections: Higher Cost & Low Turn-out

Legislation requiring school districts to hold their elections in November passed the House 60-46, only hours after it was reported out of committee.

On the final House version of HB 4755, four Democrats joined 56 Republicans in support of the bill: Reps. Rich Brown (D-Bessemer), Andy Dillon (D-Redford), Michael Sak (D-Grand Rapids), and Joel Sheltrown (D-West Branch). Two Republicans, Rep. Bruce Caswell (R-Hillsdale) and Rep. John Stewart (R-Plymouth) voted no.

Movement of the legislation came just one day after many school districts held their May elections. Turnout was extremely low. In committee today, a representative of the state clerks' association testified that some precincts reported literally no voters.

Despite recent passage of an election consolidation package, few school districts have moved their elections from May to November. Proponents of this legislation point out that most districts chose to hold the elections in May when they cost the most and have the lowest turnout.

Opponents say that the philosophy of local control trumps the issues of cost and turnout. Also, the new election consolidation laws have only been in effect for a year and some legislators feel that more school districts will voluntarily move their elections to November in the future. There is also concern that too many items up for a vote in November could lead to ballot fatigue, a phenomenon in which voters skip over items.

HB 4755 now moves to the Senate, where it could go to one of two committees: Education or Government Operations.

SENATE: DON'T COUNT ILLEGALS IN CENSUS COUNT

Resolution Calls for Citizen-Only Apportionment

By a 30-7 vote, the Senate passed a resolution calling on the U.S. Congress to pass to the states a constitutional amendment that would base congressional representation on a headcount of citizens only. Current law counts all persons residing in a state, regardless of their citizenship.

Supporters feel that the change will help states like Michigan prevent further deterioration of their congressional delegations. Opponents say that the 14th Amendment, passed following the Civil War, was intended to count everyone.

SR 105 is a reaction to the population growth in states like Texas, Arizona and California. Some of that growth is attributable to immigration.

As population has shifted south and west, Michigan has lost congressional representation in the last several censuses, shrinking from 19 seats in the House in the 1970s to 15 today. Other states have grown at a higher rate, partly due to their population of illegal immigrants.

Sen. Buzz Thomas (D-Detroit) argued that the resolution goes against the spirit of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was adopted following the Civil War. That amendment specified that all persons be counted in the census because the citizenship status of freed slaves was uncertain, he said.

Immigrants pay taxes, and generally pay more in taxes than they get in services, Mr. Thomas said.

“This resolution substitutes your judgment for the judgment of those who rebuilt this nation after its most bloody war,” Senator Thomas said.

The resolution only impacts the representation and the electoral college, not the disbursement of federal money.

JACOBS TO HOST LOCAL TOWN HALL

“All politics is local.” -Tip O’Neill, Former U.S. Speaker of the House.

Please join Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs in a Community Town Hall Meeting where YOU are the featured speakers. In her upcoming “State of the District...State of the State” Town Hall, it’s the citizens turn to speak out on the issues.

You are invited to come and share your comments and concerns about our neighborhoods, our communities, our region and our state. State Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs will be there to listen.

Monday, May 22, 2006

7:00 PM

Huntington Woods Library

26415 Scotia

Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served.

AVIAN INFLUENZA: THE BIRD FLU

Info Available On-line

Avian Influenza (the bird flu) is a disease caused by a virus that infects wild birds such as geese, ducks, swans and shorebirds; domestic poultry; and in rare cases, other animals and humans. For more information on Avian Influenza, as well as seasonal and pandemic influenza, please visit the Michigan Department of Community Health website:

http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2940_2955_22779---,00.html

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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